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WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER.
BY T. C. HARBAUGH.

In the twilight of November
With its foliage of gold,
Comes again the glad Thanksgiving
Blest with customs dear and old;
And beneath the stately banner
As it floats from sea to sea,
We a happy nation gather
Fears at rest, for all are free.

Not a hand in all this nation,
In the East nor in the West,
Bars the mansion or the hotel
To the kind Thanksgiving guest;
From the balmy groves of Southland
To the nodding pines of Maine,
Nature, filled with joy and triumph,
Spreads the yearly feast again.

We are thankful for the blessings
That have crowned our cherished land,
Fruitful orchards, golden harvests,
Peace and love from strand to strand;
'Neath November's robes of beauty
Hidden lies the warrior's sword,
And the olive branch is hanging
O'er the nation's festive board.

Aye, from mountain unto mountain
'Neath the Union's azure dome,
To the feast we spread each Autumn
Bid the absent welcome home;
Round the board where all are merry
Let the rarest sunlight play;
With the love key of thanksgiving
Open every heart today.

Hail the hallowed Thanksgiving
Which the Pilgrim Fathers gave!
'Tis their legacy forever
On the land and on the wave.
Then as freedom's chosen people,
We our destiny fulfill,
Let the future's sweet Thanksgivings
Find us grander, greater still.

LITTLE MADGE.

ADAPTED FROM THE GERMAN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER.
BY DUDLEY VAN ZANDT.

Dr. Henry Romer walked restlessly to and fro in the garden, which with its tall trees and dense bushes separated the house from the street and almost concealed it. From time to time he looked impatiently toward the front door, listened to every sound, and finally murmured to himself:

"Still no sign of her! And yet she's usually out so early. Probably the child keeps her!"

He bit his lips as he mentioned the child, for it was that, in truth, which, through Ada's fault, stood in the way of his happiness.

The little one was ten years old, and blind from birth. Henry Romer was a good hearted man, who did not lose sight of what we owe to misfortune; but that Ada always thought first of her orphaned sister Madge, that she herself, in the few hours they could be together, was never there exclusively for him—that he could not tolerate any longer. Even yesterday evening, when they might have chatted so well in the window recess, when he had so much to say to her, she had interrupted him already after the first words with "Directly; I must go up to Madge just once more before she goes to sleep."

"Then I won't disturb you," he had said, curtly, and had taken his hat and left.

Now the front door opened. It was she at last. He thought of how he had come there the morning after their engagement, at the same early hour; he still saw the happy lighting up of her brown eyes, still heard the half suppressed glad exclamation; but today—since the shadow had crept over their happiness—she came out, pale, with eyes red from weeping, and when she saw him she started.

"You here, Harry?"

"Yes, as you see. I must have been very far from your thoughts, since you are so startled."

"I didn't expect you so early."

She spoke slowly, in a weary tone; her lips did not smile, and her eyes fell quickly when they met his. He offered her his arm, but she did not notice it, or pretended not to. They took a few steps side by side; finally he began, with forced calmness:

"I came to have a talk with you—a serious talk. We parted yesterday evening in a bad humor—that mustn't happen again."

"No, that mustn't happen again," she repeated, softly.

"I don't know, Ada," he continued, "whether you made it very clear to yourself what you undertook in becoming engaged to me?"

"I thought of that all night long, and of nothing else," she said. "I ought to have done it at the very beginning; but I was so happy, I didn't think. Now I understand myself."

"Well?"

He looked at her smiling. She had recognized her wrong and confessed it.

"I will gladly take all the blame on myself," she went on, in a trembling voice. "You can't help not liking little Madge." He shrugged his shoulders involuntarily. "And so I can't reconcile the duties I owe you and those I owe little Madge."

"Your duties toward your little sister would, of course, be willingly assumed by your Aunt Mary," said Henry, coolly.

She smiled faintly.

"The corporeal care, certainly. But, Harry, the child has nothing but me and my love, of which I cannot deprive her of the smallest part. And you demand more than that."

"If you mean by that that I claim the first place in your heart and thoughts—yes," he replied. "That is my good right."

"You see! You would regard every token of love, every thought, which I have for little Madge, as a curtailing of this right, as you do already. It would be an everlasting torment that the three of us would have to suffer. And therefore"—she hesitated.

"Therefore?" he asked, feeling a painful tension. She said nothing, but drew with shaking hand a ring from her finger—a little ring with a cluster of

small diamonds—her engagement ring—and held it out to him.

"You can do that?" he cried, starting back.

"I have reflected as best I could," was her answer. "I know of no other way out."

"Ada!" he cried, threateningly. "Reflect, we are carrying on no child's play! If you give me back the ring, then all is over between us forever!"

She had turned pale as death; her eyes stared past him into vacancy.

"Take it," she said, in a hollow voice.

He took the ring and flung it away. She saw how it described a flashing bow in the sunshine, and then fell in the grass of the grass plot, adorned with blooming shrubs.

In order: the child let her little finger glide over the lines and read slowly and loud, while her sister corrected her here and there.

"Are you angry at me?" said little Madge, interrupting herself in the midst of her reading.

"Angry at you? No, dear."

"Then you are sad—you speak differently from what you usually do, Ada!" cried the little girl, as her sister stroked her hair with her hand. "Why, you haven't got your engagement ring!"

"I've lost it."

"Oh, that's the reason you're so sad! But you will surely find it again!"

"No, dear, I won't find it again. Go on with your reading."

the snow, close to the bush! Oh, Ada, now Dr. Harry can't be angry any more!"

She broke off frightened. When Ada caught a glimpse of the ring the scarcely stifled pain awoke in her suddenly.

"Throw it away!" she cried, bursting into bitter tears. "It doesn't help me; I don't want to see it!"

The child bowed her little head, but she did not throw the ring away, she let it glide into her pocket instead.

"Ada!" she said, softly and beseechingly. Then she felt how her sister put her arm around her.

"Don't be angry with me for having frightened you, my poor little darling. It's already over, quite over."

into the gutter. At the same moment she felt herself picked up by a man's arm, and stood upon her feet, while a hand knocked the snow from her cloak, and a pleasant sounding voice said:

"Child, where are your eyes, that you should stand in people's way so?"

She was half stunned by the fall, but her first movement was to feel in her pocket. God be praised, the ring was still there!

"Thank you, sir," she said, then, and added, apologetically, "I can't help it; I am blind. If I could only find No. 26 High Street."

"Poor thing!" said the pleasant voice. "I will take you there myself," and little Madge felt herself led along by a big strong hand.

Dr. Henry Romer, who sat at his office desk writing, was not a little surprised when a servant announced to him that a little blind girl wished to speak with him. He turned toward the door; but what was pictured in his face was much more than surprise. "Madge!" he wanted to cry out. The name remained half sticking in his throat. The child, however, had recognized his voice, and came groping toward him.

"Oh, Dr. Harry!" she cried, "I bring you the ring that Ada lost! I found it in the garden under the snow. Now you won't be angry at her any more, will you? It wasn't her fault that she lost it, and she has been so sad ever since!"

He looked confusedly at the ring, which she held out to him, and then at the door.

"Who came with you here?" he asked quickly, rising.

"Nobody," said Madge, "but a strange gentleman who showed me the way, after he had run against me and knocked me down. But I didn't mind the fall. I left home all alone. Ada would never dare to come to bring you the ring, she cried so hard when I found it. Oh, don't be angry any more! If you only knew how still and sad she has grown!"

He looked at the little girl, as she spoke, with wide open eyes.

"Child!" he cried then, drawing her to him, "you left home all alone? You have traveled the way that I was too cowardly to go?"

He walked up and down uneasily.

"Ada is so sad," continued little Madge. "She doesn't want to let me see it, but I know it all the same. And her face has grown so thin—I feel it when I stroke it."

He stopped short and looked down at the child. His former intended, he himself, her sacrifice for her sister, all appeared to him suddenly in quite a different light. And also the little blind girl he regarded with other eyes. That was not something that one could shove aside without further ceremony. He reflected a little still, then seated himself again, and, drawing the child to him, by both hands, said:

"You think Ada isn't angry at me; that, if I came back to her, and returned the ring to her myself, everything between her and me would be as it was formerly?"

"But she hasn't been angry at all!" cried Madge.

"Then, listen well to what I say to you. If we get married, your sister and I, I will take her with me—do you know that? She will still come to see you, but she won't belong then to you any longer. From that time forward she will belong to me entirely."

The child had listened with lowered head, and nodded to his question. Her little breast heaved trembling, she pressed her eyes shut, as she was in the habit of doing when struggling against agitation, then she said shyly, with touching, childish simplicity:

"But I can love her still, even when she doesn't belong to me."

He lifted up the little one, clasped her to him, and kissed her. "Child! dear child!" he cried, deeply moved. "So much wiser and better than I, who believed I saw so clearly! Dear, dear little Madge!"

His vehemence frightened her so she tried to escape from him.

"Let me go now, Dr. Harry; perhaps Ada has already come back home, and is anxious about me."

The whole house was in a state of excitement and anxiety. When Ada returned her aunt met her with the question, "Do you know where Madge is?" And now the search began. Not a sign of her in the house; her hat and cloak were missing. They went outdoors. On the steps, as far as the front porch covered them, and where the dry snow had not drifted, the footprints were recognizable, that was all. They called, they searched, in vain. Where could she have gone, and with whom? It was a riddle, whose solution was sought as it was feared.

As Ada stepped out of the door, probably for the tenth time, she heard a slight approach and stop. The lattice gate was opened.

"Ada! Ada!" are there?" cried a clear child's voice.

She rushed down the steps; below little Madge came toward her. She did not utter a word, but knelt down and, throwing her arms around the child, covered her face with kisses.

"Don't be angry because I went away. I'm here again, you see," said the child, caressingly. "But you probably don't see who brought me back?"

Not till now did Ada notice the man standing behind little Madge. She rose quickly.

"You found her?" she said, embarrassed.

"No, Ada," he replied, "she found me. She came to me all alone, and helped me find myself again—and you. Will you accept the ring once more—and me into the bargain? Reflect that our little sister begs for me!"

Ada did not understand all he said, but the main point she understood well enough, and her eyes gave him the answer.

"Only now do I have you truly, as I have you both!" he cried, joyfully, folding her in his arms.

As they bent over the child a moment later, in order to kiss her, little Madge patted his cheek familiarly, saying:

"Now you will love me a little, too—won't you, Dr. Harry? I was the one who found the ring, you know!"

Mrs. MAHONEY—"Twelve stories it was, was it, that your husband fell?" Mrs. Mahoney—"Yea."

Mrs. Mahoney—"Was he hurt?" Mrs. Mahoney—"I don't know; the death certificate didn't say."



"Take it!" said Henry, laconically, and, turning on his heels, he walked moodily away.

She stood motionless until she heard the lattice gate shut; then she pressed her hands against her eyelids, and said in a low moaning tone:

"I can't do otherwise; I can't do otherwise. I love him too much—but my poor little blind darling!"

"Ada, where have you been?" cried a clear child's voice, as she stepped into the house again. It was little Madge, a slim, pretty child, with a lovely little face, and the listening expression in it which one so often sees in the blind. As she came toward her sister no one at first glance would have noticed her infirmity. In the house, in which she had lived since her birth, she went about almost as sure as a person who can see.

"Where were you?" she asked. "Aunt Mary and I have been keeping breakfast waiting for you."

"I was in the garden."

"Is anything the matter with you?" said the blind child. "You speak so softly."

"I've got a bad headache. Eat your breakfast without me; I'll go and lie down a little while longer."

The child wanted to go with her, but her aunt held her back and went upstairs to Ada alone. She had seen the lovers in the garden, and surmised nothing good. Nevertheless she was disconcerted when Ada rose up in bed on her entrance, and said to her:

"It's over, Aunt Mary; that's all!"

Then she buried her face in the pillows and cried as if her heart would break.

When she returned later to the little girl she looked almost cheerful, and her voice sounded so, as she said:

"Now, come, Madge, you must read."

"Haven't you really a headache any more?"

"No, no, dear."

She placed the leaves with the letters for the blind

Early the next morning, when it had grown light, Ada went out and looked for the ring. But it was in vain, she did not find it. What she would do with it, in case she found it, that she had not thought about. She could not have told, just as little as she knew why, every time the garden gate opened, she listened for Henry's step. She did not even know whether she wished it; for, had he come, they could only have parted again like the last time. But still she listened for days and days.

"Ada," said little Madge one evening, when she already lay in bed, and her sister stood beside her, "doesn't Dr. Harry come here any more?"

She had never been able to accustom herself to name her sister's fiancé otherwise.

"No, he doesn't come any more," replied Ada, after a little pause, hesitating.

"No more—Ada!" exclaimed the little girl, sitting up quickly in her bed. "Is he angry because you lost the ring? Oh, Ada!"

She stretched out her arms toward her sister, who bent over her, and the blind child drew Ada's head to her breast, and both wept together. They were the first beneficial tears that Ada shed.

It was in the middle of the summer when the lovers parted. Now it was winter, a beautiful, clear, frosty day. The night before quite a deep snow had fallen, and it lay like a cover over the grass plot in the garden. Ada walked with little Madge up and down. The child was merry; she shouted with joy when her little feet sank deep into the snow, and laughed when she slipped, because she had boldly run on in advance of her sister. Now she knelt upon the grass plot, industriously occupied in packing the snow into all sorts of forms with her skillful little hands.

All at once she cried out:

"Ada! Ada! come here!" And, as her sister, who had been standing a few steps from her, hurried thither, she cried, excitedly:

"The ring! I've got the ring, Ada! It lay under

Madge stroked Ada's face without saying anything, but her little brain began to work rapidly, and before the day was ended she had formed a plan, which struck her as being very venturesome, and she trembled at the thought of carrying it out; but carry it out she must all the same.

The following day, when Ada had gone out for a few hours, and the aunt was engaged in household affairs, little Madge prepared to set about her great undertaking. Quite softly she went upstairs, took her little cloak and hat from the closet, and got ready to go out. She intended nothing less than to go all alone to Dr. Harry and bring him the ring. That must certainly make him good again!

She listened, when she was ready, to make sure that no one stirred in the house. Everything was still. Then she stole downstairs, descended the steps, and went along the path leading to the lattice gate. There she stopped a moment, her little heart beating terribly, as she was now about to venture from the well known path, out into the strange street, which she had never yet set foot in without her sister. But she did not hesitate long. Now she stood outside, where the high wind almost took her off her feet, and swept the loose snow that had fallen the night previous about her in a mad whirl.

She steadied herself, shivering. She knew she must keep to the right, in order to come into the neighborhood where Dr. Harry lived, and so she went courageously forward. The street was at no time very animated, and now, late in the afternoon, it was almost deserted. The wonderfully fine feeling of the blind, the independence which judicious training and her own will had developed in her, helped her, and she laughed to herself, delighted, when she found that the undertaking was not at all so difficult, in spite of the boisterous wind. But now she stood still. She had come to a crossing. She heard sleighs pass, carriage wheels creak. She could go no further alone. Suddenly she received a violent push, and, staggering, fell from the sidewalk

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termination to go abroad is heard in billiard circles as he was in the middle of a handicap match with Gallagher at Daly's rooms, in this city, and it is stated that lives did not take the trouble to notify Gallagher or Daly of his intention to leave the country.

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Baby Tyrell is making a big hit with "Honest, Won't You Never Tell?"—HATTIE TYRELL.

"The Letter Carrier" is the real thing, and will use it.—WILL SMITH, of Braun and Smith, Mus. Art's.

"Honest, Won't You Never Tell?" is a great success with me.—ALICE AHRENS, Noble Thea Co.

Your songs are just what I wanted. Sang "The Letter Carrier," Friday night, to three encores. Put on "Honest, Won't You Never Tell?" on Saturday night, also to three encores.—B. E. RHODES.

I am using "Back to My Dear Old Home" in my single turn. It is a DECIDED SUCCESS, commanding two and three encores nightly (2 Replies).—G. KINSTON HOWARD, of Howard & Johnson, Vocalists.

"The Old Maple Trees by the Spring" and "Back to My Dear Old Home" are immense. Have added them to our illustrated list.—SLOCUM AND LEWIS, with Florence Minst.

I sang "Honest, Won't You Never Tell" last night with great success.—FRANK J. DARROW.

Your "Letter Carrier" and "Honest, Won't You Never Tell" are decidedly clever.—RICH. R. HANCO, Leader Orch., Lyceum Thea., Minneapolis, Minn.

Sang "Back to My Dear Old Home" on Saturday night, in this city (Buffalo, N. Y.), to an elegant audience, with three encores to back up my opinion of that beautiful composition. "The Old Maple Trees by the Spring," "The Letter Carrier" and "Honest, Won't You Never Tell" are all superb compositions and would prove undoubtedly a "hit" for any professional.—CHAS. A. BOECK.

I am using the song, "The Old Maple Trees by the Spring," this week and it goes out of sight. I am taking three and four encores nightly with it.—JOE CARTWRIGHT.

"Back to My Dear Old Home" and "The Letter Carrier" were out of sight; made good hits with them.—EDW. PRIOR.

I admire all your songs, which may seem like a musical paradox, as it is barely possible for one person to fall in love with more than one piece from a single author. But they are all good, and I commend them to singers everywhere.—C. O. SELBY, Baritone, Bartlett Quartet.

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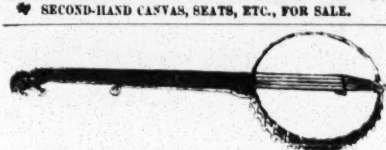
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